



Previous Montana Benchmark Standards

Montana previously had benchmark standards at the end of grade, 4, 8, and upon graduation. This highlights the end of grade 4 standards for Communication Arts for Literature Content.

Sample Standards

Grade 4

Communication Arts Literature Content Standard 3

Students select, interpret, and respond to a range of literature.

- 3.1 identify basic literary elements (setting, plot, problem/solution, character)
- 3.2 explain how authors' choices of language and use of devices contribute to the meaning of literary works
- 3.3 identify the characteristics of select literary genres
- 3.4 identify how culture and history are represented in literary works, including works of Montana American Indians
- 3.5 identify similarities and differences between personal experiences and literary works, including the works of Montana American Indians
- 3.6 express and justify personal responses to literature

Montana Common Core Standards and Assessments

The new Montana Common Core Standards have explicit standards for all grade levels as well as College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards.

Sample Standards

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

Key Ideas and Details

- 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Kindergarten

Key Ideas and Details

- 1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- 2. With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details. Include stories by and about American Indians.

1st Grade

Craft and Structure

- 4. Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- 5. Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, including those of American Indians, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.

2nd Grade

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- 7. Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

3rd Grade

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

- 10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Grade 4

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- 1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- 2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text. Include texts by and about American Indians.
- 3. Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).



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Previously Montana's Communication Arts standards included benchmark standards at the end of grade 4, end of grade 8 and upon graduation. The Communication Arts Standards included strands for speaking and listening, reading content, literature content, media literacy content, and writing content. In the comparison chart, Communication Arts Literature Standard 3 is listed with the benchmark standards at the end of grades 4, 8, and upon graduation. There are no standards for grades K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, or 11.

The new Montana Common Core Standards for English Language and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects address provide standards for all grade levels K-12. In addition to grade level standards the five strands of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language all are preceded by College and Career Readiness Standards. The new standards include Standard 10 as well which addresses range, quality, and complexity of text that students are expected to read and understand. The reading strand grades K-12 include standards for literature and informational text. Grades K-5 has standards for foundational skills in read as well. Finally grades 6-12 have standards for literacy in history/social studies, science and technical subjects.

On November 4, 2011 Montana adopted the Common Core State Standards. Previously Montana had benchmark standards for end of grade 4, end of grade 8 and upon graduation. The graph represents the comparison of the Common Core State Standards and the Essential Learning Expectations developed in 2010 which identify specific grade level expectations based on the benchmarks for each of the adopted standards.

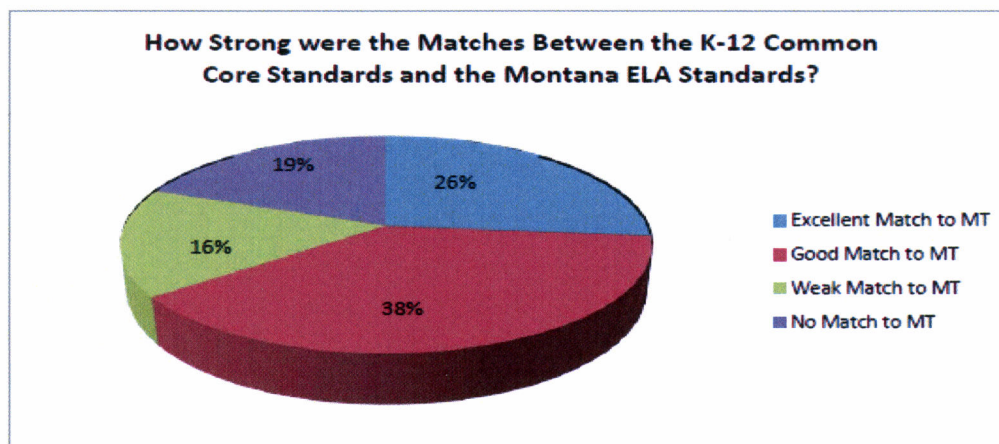


Chart Reads: Your state team rated 26% of the Common Core Standards as an excellent match to your state standards. Note: The denominator does NOT include the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards or the 6-12 Standards in Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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